Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 12 (canceled)

13. (new) A method for shutting down inter-domain routes, comprising:

establishing a failure of a segment connecting two autonomous systems by a router of a first autonomous system;

sending a message, which contains information relating to the failure of the segment, and by means of which the failed segment is disclosed to the second autonomous system, from the router to a second autonomous system; and

shutting down the inter-domain routes containing the segment by a router of the second autonomous system.

14. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the message is sent directly from the router, or via one or more routers, to the second autonomous system.

15. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the router of the second autonomous system sends a message that contains information relating to the failure of the segment to at least one further adjacent autonomous system.

16. (new) The method according to claim 15, wherein the message is sent directly from the router of the second autonomous system, or via one or more further routers of the same autonomous system, to the further adjacent autonomous system.

17. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein a message that contains information relating to the failure of the segment is transmitted to all autonomous systems that comprise at least one route containing the segment for routing data packets.

18. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein when the segment is returned to service, a message is sent to an autonomous system that has shutdown inter-domain routes

containing the segment, the message containing information on the fact that the segment has been returned to service.

19. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein when the segment is returned to service, a message is sent to all autonomous systems that shutdown inter-domain routes containing the segment and the message containing information on the fact that the segment has been returned to service.

20. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one autonomous system that has been informed about the return to service of the segment returns the inter-domain routes containing the segment to service.

21. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the message containing the information about the failure of the segment is transmitted by an UPDATE message of the Border Gateway Protocol.

22. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the message containing the information about the return to service of the segment is transmitted by an UPDATE message of the Border Gateway Protocol.

23. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the segment is transmitted in the field of the UPDATE message, which is provided *per se* for the transmission of routes, and specified by a PATH ATTRIBUTES parameter that a segment is involved.

24. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the first and second autonomous systems are IP (Internet Protocol) networks.